GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:909
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
RELEASE OF MONKEYS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY,PUNE
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some animal activities have forcibly released monkeys mean for research works in the National Institute of Virology, Pune;

(b) if so, whether these monkeys infected with various diseases may pose a danger to public health; and (

(c) if so, the preventive measures the Government propose to take in the interest of public health?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) A team duly constituted by CPCSEA inspected the National Institute of Virology NIV), Pune, on 8th May, 2002It was found that many of the animals in the stock of NIV were sick.Based on the Inspection Report, 37 monkeys were subsequently handed over by NIV to The Indian Herpetological Society, Pune for rehabilitation.

(b & c) Since the continuation of such animals in NIV and their use for experiments did not fully conform with the provisions of the manual on Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and could have caused a danger to public health, it was decided to shift the animals from the Institute.